



WOMEN VETERANS' NETWORK

April 25th Luncheon Features USO Show



This year the Women Veterans' Network Luncheon will feature a USO Show—complete with music by the 215th Army Band's "Voices of Freedom" vocal quartet and entertainment by Army National Guard Comedienne, Sergeant Rebecca Walker, of the 65th Press Camp Headquarters. Join us for the fun at a **new** location—the **Radisson Hotel in Milford on April 25, 2002.**

Rebecca Walker's unique brand of comedy has been keeping audiences rolling in the aisles for two years in Boston and overseas. She has performed at many clubs in the New



Sgt. Rebecca Walker

England area and was the opening act for the Morale, Welfare and Recreation shows that toured Bosnia to entertain troops. Her unique experiences that range from majoring in acting at Emerson College to working as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army National Guard enable her to relate to any crowd. Her training as an actor and broadcast journalist show in her smooth delivery and her ability to interact with the crowd; she's truly TRAINED TO KILL!

Following Sgt. Walker, the "Voices of Freedom" will entertain you with selections such as "Danny Boy," "Homeward Bound," and "I Got You (I Feel Good)," and other wonderful tunes. So wear your uniforms and hats and come prepared to have a good time!



Voices of Freedom vocal quartet
The Luncheon begins at **noon** and runs until 2:00 p.m. The menu this year consists of a baked chicken lunch, which includes salad, vegetable, roll, dessert, and a beverage.

There is an \$18.00 charge for lunch. Reservations are required and the deadline for registering is **April 9, 2002.** See page 3 for the Luncheon Reservation Form. If you have additional questions, please contact Heidi Kruckenberg, Women Veterans' Network, at 617-727-3578, Ext. 316, or by email DVSWomen@vet.state.ma.us. With your paid reservation we will reply with your meal ticket and directions to the Radisson Hotel. Sorry, no refunds.

Vietnam Veteran Nurses Needed for Study

Vietnam Veteran Nurses: Participants needed for National Institute of Mental Health study examining emotional behavior. Participation requires three, 2-hour sessions at the Boston VA Medical Center. Compensation is \$60. Help us understand the lasting impact of your service. Call Julie at 617-232-9500, Ext. 6198.

-VA Updates -

VA Center of Excellence Awarded to Women's Health Programs at VA Boston Healthcare System

The Combined Women's Health Programs at the VA Boston Healthcare System successfully competed for the VA Center of Excellence award. This prestigious award was given to only six centers across the country after rigorous evaluation by peer review panels and final review by an impartial panel. The inscription on the plaque proclaims that the Women's Health Program is, "A high performing clinical program that is the finest in what it does when compared with the best in American healthcare and serves as a model for the Department of Veterans Affairs. This program provides exceptional quality while meeting the highest standards of clinical care, patient satisfaction, and resource utilization."

For additional information about the programs please call Pat Robinson, LICSW, at 617-232-9500, Ext. 4120 or Diane Harness-DiGloria, NP, at 508-583-4500, Ext. 1435.

Joan O'Connor Joins VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

Joan O'Connor, Coordinator of the Women Veterans' Network, was invited to serve a two-year term as Secretarial Appointee on the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Women Veterans. The Committee studies the VA's treatment of women and reports to Congress.

New VA Outpatient Clinic Opens in Dorchester

Veterans in Dorchester now have access to VA Primary Care Services in their neighborhood. A new outpatient clinic located at the Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center, 895 Blue Hill Avenue, opened in October 2001. The opening of this clinic is part of the VA-wide effort to reach more veterans in need of medical services. The clinic, which is staffed by one medical doctor, one nurse practitioner, and a medical clerk, is open Monday through Friday from 8:00-4:30 p.m. Call 617-880-7946 for more information.

VA Appoints Trowell-Harris as Womens' Director



WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs has named Dr. Irene Trowell-Harris as director of the Center for Women Veterans, based in Washington.

In her new position, Trowell-Harris will be the primary advisor to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi on programs and issues related to women veterans. "I am very excited about working with Secretary Principi to improve services for women veterans," Trowell-Harris said. "Times have changed. Today there are 1.4 million women veterans living in the United States. Women comprise 15 percent of the active-duty military, 16 percent of the reserves and 20 percent of new recruits. I look forward to the challenges ahead, and plan to make sure VA has programs in place that provide benefits and meet their health care needs."

Major General Trowell-Harris served in the United States Air Force and Air National Guard retiring after 38 years of service.

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs, News Release October 16, 2001

Second Annual VA Women Veterans' Luncheon Huge Success

The Women Veterans' Health Programs of the VA Boston Healthcare System hosted a Holiday Luncheon and Informational Fair for 210 women veterans and their guests on December 6, 2001, at the USS Jacob Jones, VFW Post 2017 in Dedham.

Keynote speaker Susan Wornick, Channel 5 Anchorwoman, enthralled the audience with her witty sense of humor and enlightened them on issues of consumer protection. Guest Speaker Norfolk County District Attorney William Keating followed up with in-depth information on "Scams to Watch Out For." Holiday spirit abounded and a good time was had by all.

Plans are already underway for this year's event. Be sure to watch your next newsletter so that you can reserve early.

* ANNUAL WOMENS' LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM *

Name: _____ Luncheon cost is \$18.00 per person.

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Tables may be reserved with purchase of 10 tickets.

Guests: _____ (use back of sheet if necessary)

I am a woman veteran ☐ I am reserving a table for: _____ (group name)

Baked Chicken Lunch, includes salad, vegetable, roll, dessert and a beverage \$18.00 each

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ meal(s) at \$18.00 each.

Make checks payable to:

Women Veterans' Network

Mail this form with your check to:

Heidi Kruckenberg
Women Veterans' Network
Department of Veterans' Services
239 Causeway Street, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02114

Date: April 25th
Location: Radisson Hotel
Milford, MA

Questions—contact Heidi Kruckenberg, Assistant, Women Veterans' Network at 617-727-3578, Ext. 316

DEADLINE APRIL 9th

NO REFUNDS

Veterans' Upward Bound at UMass Boston

The Veterans' Upward Bound program at the University of Massachusetts Boston provides free evening college preparatory services to men and women of all ages who served in the United States Armed Forces. Students receive academic instruction in English, mathematics, science, social science, computer science and study skills, and the program offers GED instruction. Academic advising and tutorial assistance is available along with textbooks and school supplies. The program also provides a modest stipend to help defray the cost of transportation expenses.

The program is ideal for veterans who have decided that an education is key for reaching their goals of improving their quality of life. Eligible veterans must have served 180 days of active duty, excluding training purposes, with other than dishonorable character of service. They must be low income and/or first generation college eligible.

Veterans' Upward Bound is now accepting applications. With rolling admission, the program offers three cycles per year from which to choose: September, January, or May. Each cycle is fourteen weeks long. For more information contact Executive Director Mary Stone by phone 617-287-5870.

City of Medford Honors Women Veterans

On November 11, 2001, the City of Medford, in conjunction with VFW Post 1012, held a special ceremony to pay tribute to women veterans for their military service. Fifty women veterans from Medford were honored in the "Comrades at Arms Ceremony." U.S. Navy Commander Sara M. Marks was the keynote speaker at the event. A souvenir program book was created with stories depicting the various roles played by women as members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Volunteer to help your city or town hold a similar ceremony for women veterans this year. Talk to your Veterans Services Officer or Mayor.

Update from the Governor's Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

The next Annual Women's Luncheon hosted by the Governor's Advisory Committee on Women Veterans will be held in Randolph on October 13, 2002. More details to follow.

Sadly, Betty Victorine, of the Governor's Advisory Committee passed away on November 1, 2001. Everyone who knew her will miss Betty. Our condolences to her family and friends.



Her-story lessons

New women's exhibit coming to Battleship Cove

Women Protecting US, a new exhibit planned at Battleship Cove, will represent Southern New England's first in-depth documentation of women's military contributions to America. Professionally designed by artist Laurie Carlson, this provocative, permanent exhibition will chronicle how women in the military perform valuable duties, and how women on the home front preserve the fabric of our nation while soldiers and sailors fight overseas.

This exhibit will establish Battleship Cove as an educational resource in the field of women's military history. If you are interested in becoming an individual or corporate sponsor of this new exhibit on board Battleship *Massachusetts*, please contact David F. Guertin, Jr., Director of Development, at (508) 678-1100 or davidg@battleshipcove.com.

Have you visited Battleship Cove lately? Did you know that all Massachusetts school groups receive free admission to Battleship Cove until October 31, 2003? * (*Reservations required.)

Battleship Cove special event & catering services

In 1965, the U.S.S. *Massachusetts* arrived in Fall River, heralding a waterfront renaissance. What began with one ship has evolved into the world's largest collection of historic naval vessels and a dynamic venue for weddings, reunions, and parties of up to 900 persons.

Battleship Cove offers full-service catering within a multitude of settings to host your family gathering, meeting, or special event. The museum has added the Fall River Carousel to its list of historic waterfront meeting facilities. Restored to its original splendor, the carousel is available year round for private functions.

Conveniently located near Newport, Boston, and Cape Cod, this spectacular attraction harbors Battleship *Massachusetts*, Destroyer *Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.*, Attack Submarine *Lionfish*, and PT Boats 617 and 796. Nestled under the broad arm of the Charles Braga Memorial Bridge,

this unique destination also comprises the National PT Boat Museum and the National Destroyermens Museum.

For more details, or to request a special events brochure, call (508) 678-1100.



Nautical Nights

Camping at Battleship Cove

Since 1972 over 450,000 campers have relied on Battleship Cove to provide safe, quality educational programming, and as the founder of Nautical Nights, the nation's first and most popular maritime camping program, the museum has always delivered. Now, Battleship Cove hosts a growing number of programs for girls and young women, including a regular calendar of girls-only Nautical Nights.

Over the past six months, Battleship Cove's mission has become even more important: In short, the Cove hasn't changed, but the world has. So while Battleship Cove still entertains youth groups with fun, educational workshops like Morse Code class and knot-tying sessions, the museum also helps adults face the challenge of explaining world events to youngsters by sharing the lessons of America's veterans — our greatest examples of patriotism and leadership. With five National Historic Landmarks within the world's largest collection of historic naval ships, Battleship Cove offers a unique environment to learn about these fundamental American values.

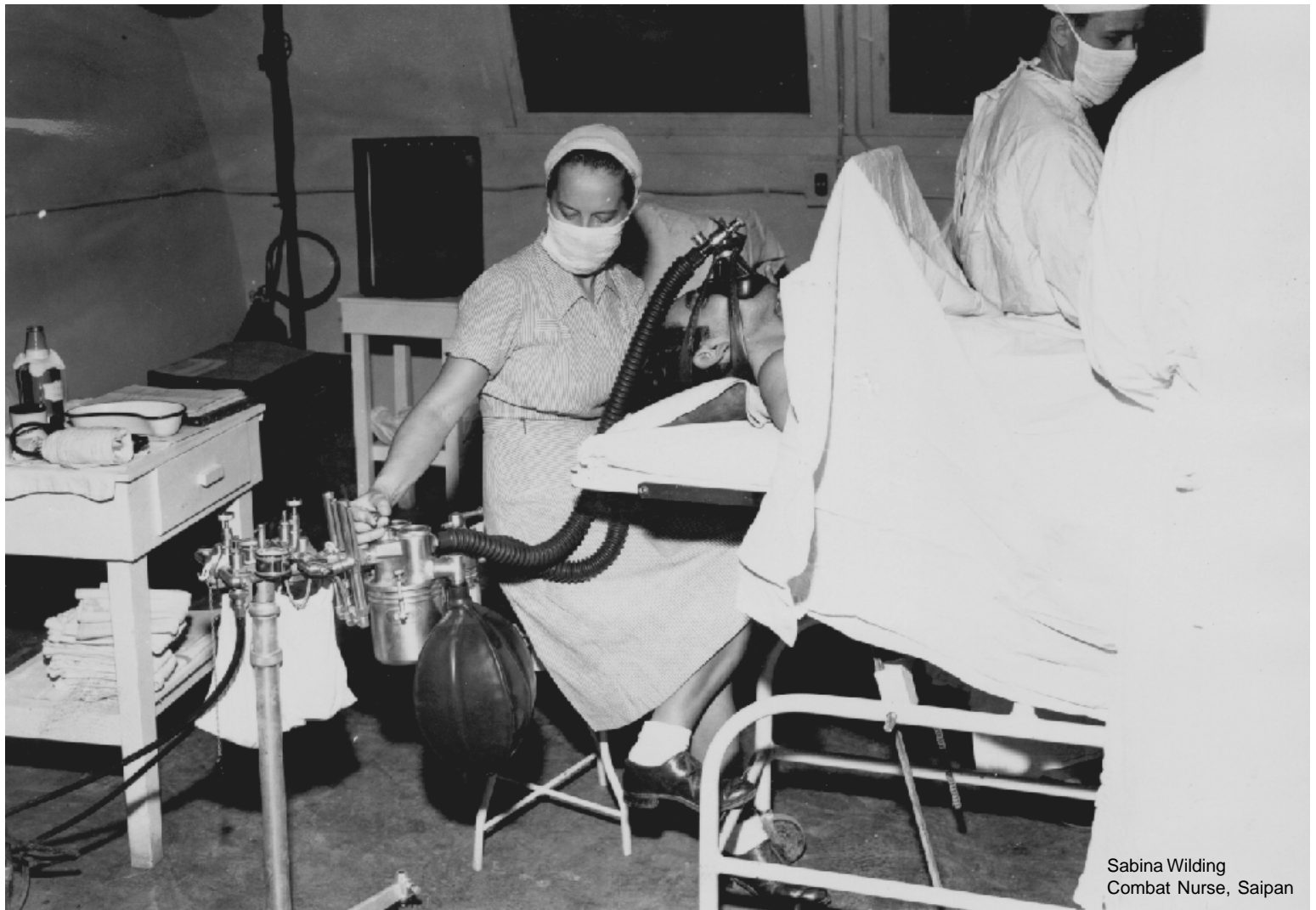
The next girls-only Nautical Nights are scheduled on May 10 and September 14. For more information, or if you would like a Nautical Nights brochure, please call Paula Hague, Overnight Program Coordinator, at (508) 678-1100.

WVN2002

BATTLESHIP DISCOVER
the world's largest collection of historic naval ships

Fall River, Massachusetts
www.battleshipcove.org
508.678.1100
OPEN YEAR ROUND

SAVE \$1.00
off general admission



Sabina Wilding
Combat Nurse, Saipan

Some heroes never step on the battlefield.

They are mothers, sisters, daughters, wives, and friends. While formal military status for US women began in May of 1942, women have always borne the burden of military conflict. Often unrecognized, their contributions paved the way for the legions of women who serve today as equals to men in our armed forces.

Now, their stories are being discovered and retold at Battleship Cove. As your official veterans memorial to World War II and the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf Wars, Battleship Cove is dedicated to acknowledging the contributions of women veterans. Home to the largest oral history collection in the Commonwealth, Battleship Cove seeks your



perspectives on the events that continue to shape our generation. If you are interested in being interviewed for the Veterans' Voices Oral History Project, or if you would like to loan or donate memorabilia to the "Women Protecting US" exhibit on board Battleship *Massachusetts*, contact Battleship Cove at (800) 533-3194 or email battleship@battleshipcove.com.

Battleship Cove is a nonprofit maritime heritage museum comprising five National Historic Landmarks within the world's largest collection of historic naval ships.

Battleship Cove hosts military reunions, conferences, and special events, and offers innovative educational workshops to schools and youth groups.

Department of Veterans' Services
Attn: Women Veterans' Network
239 Causeway Street, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02114

Bulk Rate

If you don't wish to be on our mailing list or if your address is incorrect, please send your request for removal or address change in writing to the address in the upper-left corner of this page.

Employment Resources for Veterans

The Massachusetts Division of Employment and Training (DET) offers employment assistance specifically for veterans. Each One-Stop Career Center across the state has a dedicated Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) whose primary function is to help veterans find employment. For employment resources, visit DET's website (www.detma.org), stop into your neighborhood One-Stop Career Center, or talk to your local Veterans Services Officer who will help you find the Career Center nearest you.

Women's Army Corps Service Medal

The exclusive U.S. Award authorized for women only is the Women's Army Corps Service Medal, available to World War II WAC/WAACs who served during the period 1941-1946. Veterans can receive one full FREE set of their military awards and decorations by submitting their request in writing to: **National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.**

Speakers' Bureau Volunteers Needed

The Women Veterans' Network is seeking women veterans who are willing to be guest speakers in their own communities and in neighboring communities. We receive telephone calls from cities and towns, schools, organizations, and private groups looking for women veterans to speak at different veterans' events, especially on Memorial Day and Veterans' Day.

Our Speakers' Bureau consists of women veterans interested in speaking about their military experience. If you volunteer for the Speakers' Bureau we will contact you first and inform you about the organization making the request. With your permission, we would then ask the organization to call you.

Please contact the Women Veterans' Network (617-727-3578, Ext. 316).